

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-40 were previously pending in the application. Claims 2, 20, 22, and 26 are canceled; claims 1, 3, 7, 15, 21, 23, 27, and 30 are amended; and new claims 41-52 are added herein. Assuming the entry of this amendment, claims 1, 3-19, 21, 23-25, and 27-52 are now pending in the application. The Applicant hereby requests further examination and reconsideration of the application in view of the foregoing amendments and these remarks.

Information Disclosure Statement

Regarding the IDS filed on 2/27/08, the Examiner stated that documents KE, KF, and KG are missing dates. In response, the Applicant submits herewith a revised Form PTO-1449 that provides the dates for these three documents. The Applicant requests that the Examiner initial the references listing on this Form PTO-1449 to acknowledge that the references have been officially recognized.

Claim Objections and Rejections

In paragraph 1 of the office action, the Examiner objected to claims 2-14, 16, 18-19, 23-33, 35, and 38-40 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but indicated that those claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. In paragraph 2, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 15, 17, and 20 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Lowe. In paragraph 4, the Examiner rejected claims 21, 34, and 36-37 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Budnikov. In paragraph 7, the Examiner rejected claim 22 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Budnikov in view of Hasebe. For the following reasons, the Applicant submits that all of the now-pending claims are allowable over the cited references.

Claim 1

Claim 1 has been amended to include the features of previously pending claim 2. As such, currently amended claim 1 is equivalent to previously pending claim 2 rewritten in independent form. Since the Examiner stated that previously pending claim 2 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form, the Applicant submits that currently amended claim 1 is allowable. Since claims 3-19 depend variously from claim 1, it is further submitted that those claims are also allowable.

Claim 21

Claim 21 has been amended to include the features of previously pending claims 22 and 26. As such, currently amended claim 21 is equivalent to previously pending claim 26 rewritten in independent form. Since the Examiner stated that previously pending claim 26 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form, the Applicant submits that currently amended claim 21 is allowable. Since claims 23-25 and 27-40 depend variously from claim 21, it is further submitted that those claims are also allowable.

New Claims 41-52

Support for new claims 41-52 is found as follows:

<u>New Claim</u>	<u>Support</u>
41	Claims 1, 15, and 16
42	Claim 17
43	Claims 1 and 18
44	Claim 19
45	Claims 21, 22, and 23
46	Claim 24
47	Claim 25
48	Claims 21, 34, and 35
49	Claim 36
50	Claims 21 and 38
51	Claims 21 and 39
52	Claim 40

New claim 41 is equivalent to previously pending claim 16 rewritten in independent form. Since the Examiner stated that previously pending claim 16 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form, the Applicant submits that new claim 41 is allowable. Since new claim 42 depends from claim 41, it is further submitted that claim 42 is also allowable.

New claim 43 is equivalent to previously pending claim 18 rewritten in independent form. Since the Examiner stated that previously pending claim 18 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form, the Applicant submits that new claim 43 is allowable. Since new claim 44 depends from claim 43, it is further submitted that claim 44 is also allowable.

New claim 45 is equivalent to previously pending claim 23 rewritten in independent form. Since the Examiner stated that previously pending claim 23 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form, the Applicant submits that new claim 45 is allowable. Since new claims 46-47 depend from claim 45, it is further submitted that claims 46-47 are also allowable.

New claim 48 is equivalent to previously pending claim 35 rewritten in independent form. Since the Examiner stated that previously pending claim 35 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form, the Applicant submits that new claim 48 is allowable. Since new claim 49 depends from claim 48, it is further submitted that claim 49 is also allowable.

New claim 50 is equivalent to previously pending claim 38 rewritten in independent form. Since the Examiner stated that previously pending claim 38 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form, the Applicant submits that new claim 50 is allowable.

New claim 51 is equivalent to previously pending claim 39 rewritten in independent form. Since the Examiner stated that previously pending claim 39 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form, the Applicant submits that new claim 51 is allowable. Since new claim 52 depends from claim 51, it is further submitted that claim 52 is also allowable.

Conclusion

For the reasons set forth above, the Applicant respectfully submits that the rejections of claims 1, 15, 17, 20-22, 34, and 36-37 under Sections 102(b), 102(e), and 103(a) have been overcome. Furthermore, new claims 41-52 patentably define over the cited references.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, the Applicant believes that the now-pending claims are in condition for allowance. Therefore, the Applicant believes that the entire application is now in condition for allowance, and early and favorable action is respectfully solicited.

Fees

During the pendency of this application, the Commissioner for Patents is hereby authorized to charge payment of any filing fees for presentation of extra claims under 37 CFR 1.16 and any patent application processing fees under 37 CFR 1.17 or credit any overpayment to Mendelsohn & Associates, P.C. Deposit Account No. 50-0782.

The Commissioner for Patents is hereby authorized to treat any concurrent or future reply, requiring a petition for extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136 for its timely submission, as incorporating a petition for extension of time for the appropriate length of time if not submitted with the reply.

Respectfully submitted,

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